



COMMUNICATIONS

Joan C. Barnish
Director of Communications
Phone: (860) 418-6044
Cell: (203) 233-0150
joan.barnish@ct.gov

July 3, 2012

United States Department of Education Commends Connecticut's Birth to Three System

For the sixth straight year, the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) Birth to Three System has been found to fully meet the requirements of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Birth to Three is a statewide entitlement program for children under the age of three with disabilities or developmental delays and their families.

Each year, the state is rated on 14 different performance indicators and has been found to have high levels of compliance. A June 27th letter from ***the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services*** stated, ***"We commend Connecticut for its performance."***

"I am very pleased to see that Connecticut Birth to Three System has been recognized for the exceptional work they do," said DDS Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D. "It is an outstanding network of professionals from around the state who are extremely dedicated to the children and families they serve."

In Connecticut, the Birth to Three System provides early intervention services to 9,400 infants and toddlers under the age of three annually. Highly qualified staff from local Birth to Three programs visit families and their children at home or visit the child in a child care setting. More than 235,000 home visits take place each year. Data from the previous ten years shows that about 10% of Connecticut's infants and toddlers born each year will receive services through the Birth to Three System before their third birthday.

A network of 28 general programs operated by a variety of agencies is available to serve any eligible child and, in addition, there are six programs that specialize in delivering services to children with autism spectrum disorder and three that specialize in children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Those specialized programs are also available statewide.

For more information about Birth to Three Services, please visit the website at: www.birth23.org. To refer a child, call 1-800-505-7000

###